

*Hobbies*

# The dollar coin vs. the bill: Questions about practicality

By Roger Boye

**T**oday's column answers more questions from Chicago Tribune readers.

**Q**—Do you agree that a new dollar coin would be inconvenient to use? Who would want to carry all of that weight? Paper dollars are light and fit with ease in billfolds, while the coins would wear holes in pockets.

**L.K., Chicago**

**A**—Most likely, a round dollar would weigh about the same as three Lincoln cents. Also, it no longer would be necessary to carry large numbers of quarters to feed parking meters, and you could buy the Sunday Tribune at a vending machine with three coins, not six. Thus, a dollar coin might lighten your load.

**Q**—Over the years, my husband and I have saved from our change nearly 1,000 Jefferson nickels made in the late 1940s

and 1950s. I've called four local dealers and no one will pay us more than five cents each. How could we make a profit on our hoard?

**R.E., Chicago**

**A**—Most of the older Jeffersons still are common among collectors. A Coin World advertiser has offered to pay 7 cents each for such coins, but as you discovered, many dealers won't give more than face value unless you have some of the rarer dates, such as a 1950-D.

By the way, circulated Jeffersons made between 1942 and 1945 with large mint marks on the back side wholesale for nearly 20 cents each because of their silver content. During World War II, Uncle Sam made five-cent coins out of copper, silver and manganese instead of copper and nickel. The metal nickel was used for weapons.